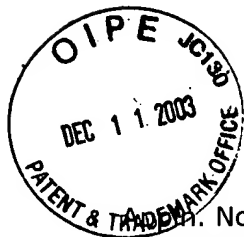


Appln. No.: 09/657,041

BSI-430US8



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No.: 09/657,041  
Applicant: Leonard Pinchuk et al.  
Filed: 9/5/2000  
Title: Expandable Supportive Branched Endoluminal Grafts  
T.C./A.U.: 3731  
Examiner: Michael H. Thaler  
Confirmation No.: 9622  
Docket No.: BSI-430US8

T.H.  
12-22-03  
#9/Suppl  
a/Declarator  
+ pat.  
a/Chy  
of address

**COMMUNICATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

In accordance with telephone conversations between the applicants' below signed representative and Examiner Thaler on October 24, 2003 and December 8, 2003, the applicants respectfully submit the following to satisfy remaining formality requirements:

**1. Supplemental Reissue Oath/Declaration**

A Supplemental Reissue Oath/Declaration is submitted herewith to further identify the at least one error which is relied upon to support the reissue application. This Declaration has been executed by two of the three inventors, namely Leonard Pinchuk and Yasushi Kato. The remaining inventor, Rysler Alcime, is in the process of returning to the country to sign the Declaration. The fully executed Supplemental Reissue Oath/Declaration will be submitted shortly upon execution by Rysler Alcime.

**2. Replacement Drawing Sheet**

Also enclosed is the drawing sheet containing Figures 14-17 with "Replacement Sheet" marked thereon indicating that changes were made to the drawings.

**3. Claims**

A copy of claims 40-42 which were previously submitted are now enclosed with all of the claims being underlined.

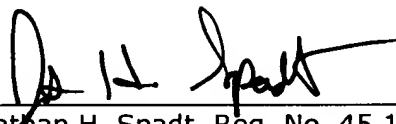
**4. Patent**

The original U.S. Patent No. 5,855,598 issued January 5, 1999 is enclosed for surrender.

**Conclusion**

The applicants respectfully assert that all requirements by the Examiner have now been met (with the exception of the fully Executed Supplemental Oath/Declaration which will be submitted forthwith). A notice of allowance of a Reissue Patent with claims 1-30 and 40-42 is respectfully requested upon submission of the Executed Supplemental Oath/Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan H. Spadt, Reg. No. 45,122  
Attorney for Applicants

JHS/dhm

Attachments: Replacement Sheet of Figures 14-17 (1 sheet)  
Partially executed Supplemental Reissue Oath/Declaration  
Claims 40-42 (underlined)  
Original U.S. Patent No. 5,855,598

Dated: December 9, 2003

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

December 9, 2003

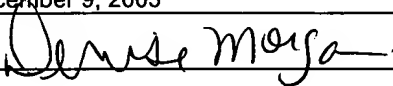


FIG.14

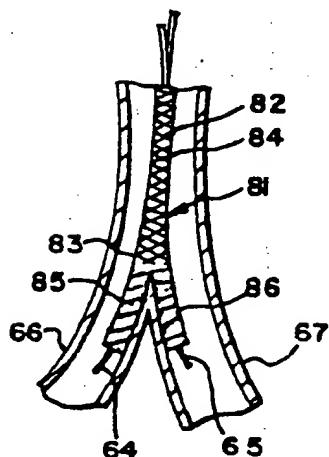


FIG.15

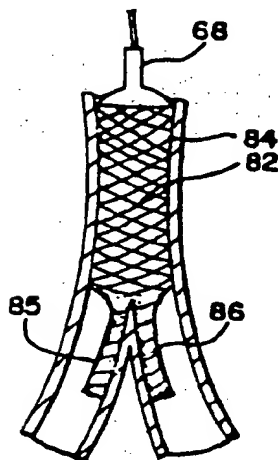


FIG.16

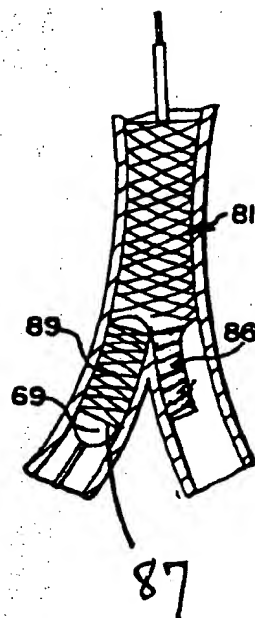
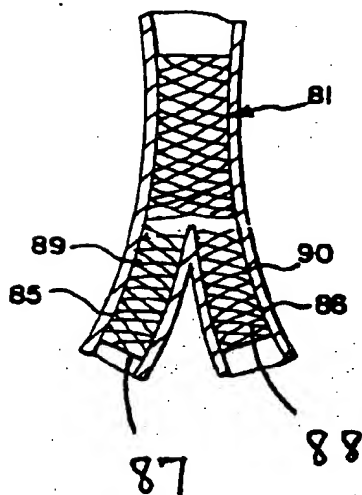


FIG.17



40. A multi-component bifurcating expandable supportive endoluminal graft comprising:

a plurality of expandable supportive endoluminal components adapted to be individually deployed at a selected location within a body vessel, each said supportive endoluminal graft component being radially compressible for endoluminal insertion and radially expandable for deployment at a desired location within a body vessel;

one of said expandable supportive endoluminal components is a trunk component, said trunk component generally surrounding a trunk liner positioned within said trunk component, said trunk liner having a generally cylindrical body portion and two leg portions, each said leg portion defining a leg opening, wherein the generally cylindrical body portion of said liner and portions of said leg portions abut said tubular supporting member and are secured to said tubular supporting member, and portions of said leg portions not abutting said tubular supporting member abut one another and are secured to one another;

at least one other of said expandable supportive endoluminal components is a generally cylindrical supportive leg component; and

said generally cylindrical supportive leg component and one of said leg portions of said liner, when said leg component and trunk component are deployed within the body vessel, are telescopically positioned with respect to each other.

41. The supportive endoluminal graft of claim 40, wherein said generally cylindrical supportive leg component has an end portion which, when deployed, is positioned within said leg opening of the trunk liner.

42. The supportive endoluminal graft of claim 40 or claim 41, wherein said plurality of expandable supportive endoluminal components are self-expanding.